

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicant has amended the specification to insert appropriate headings therein and to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner at the top of page 3 of the office action. Applicant has also amended page 7, line 13 of the specification to provide antecedent basis for the subject matter previously set forth in claim 1, line 5. Applicant has also rewritten claims 2 and 3 in independent form by including therein substantially the same limitations previously recited in independent claim 1. In making these amendments, applicant has corrected the informality from claim 1, line 4, noted by the Examiner. Applicant has canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and amended the remaining claims to be in proper multiple dependent form. Claims 15 and 16 have been added to further define the invention.

In view of the cancellation of claim 1, the rejection of this claim under 35 USC 102(b) is moot.

Applicant notes the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 3. In view of the cancellation of claim 1, the amendments to claims 2 and 3 rewriting these claims in independent form and the amendments to the remaining claims amending these claims to depend from one of claims 2 and 3, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes the Examiner has cited a number of documents as being pertinent to applicant's disclosure. However, since these documents were not applied in rejecting claims formerly in the application, further discussion of these documents is deemed unnecessary.

The Examiner's comments concerning references filed June 7, 2002 at the top of page 2 of the office action are noted. However, on June 7, 2002, applicant

submitted a response to the notification of missing requirements and a petition for extension of time. No reference were submitted by applicant on that date. It is possible the Examiner is referring to the international search report and references cited therein which should been transmitted by the International Bureau to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as elected office. In fact, Form PCT/DO/EO/903 mailed June 24, 2002 indicates that both the international search report and copies of the documents are present in the national stage file. Since both the international search report and the documents are present in the national stage file, the Examiner should consider the documents from the international search report and indicate by a statement in the next office action that the information has been considered. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, (MPEP) 609 II. For the Examiner's convenience, applicant is submitting herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing these documents.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 1151.41006X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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